

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINGST 00367 271445Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 A-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 FBO-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

----- 048867

R 271300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 010

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMNAVBASE GTMO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 0367

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: GUN COURT ACT AMENDED: GAG LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED

REF: KINGSTON 0164

1. THE GUN COURT AMENDMENT ACT REPLACING THE SENTENCE OF INDEFINITE DETENTION WITH MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS WAS INTRODUCED AND PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JANUARY 22. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE FULL COURT DIVISION WITH A HIGH COURT JUDGE SITTING WITHOUT A JURY AND FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE REVIEW BOARD.

2. THE AMENDMENT IS THE RESULT OF A DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL THAT THE SENTENCE OF INDEFINITE DETENTION WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AS WAS THE FULL COURT DIVISION. SENATE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDED ACT IS EXPECTED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINGST 00367 271445Z

NEW WEEK.

3. DURING THE DEBATE ON THE ACT, NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER MUNN ANNOUNCED NEW LEGISLATION IS BEING DRAFTED "...AIMED AT ANYONE WHO BY CONDUCT OR ACTION INVITES DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LAWFULLY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PARLIAMENT AND THE POLICE, OR CREATES DISAFFECTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY INTO DISREPUTE." PENALTIES PROPOSED FOR THESE NEW OFFENSES WILL INVOLVE NOT ONLY IMPRISONMENT BUT ALSO DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL OFFICES AND THE RESTRICTION OF CERTAIN ELECTORAL RIGHTS.

4. MUNN ANNOUNCED ALSO THAT OTHER LEGISLATION IS BEING PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT ON CONVICTION FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES:

A. UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURING OR POSSESSION OR USE OF BOMBS, INCENDIARY BOMBS, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND LIKE OBJECTS OR DESTRUCTION, AND

B. UNLAWFUL IMPORTATION, POSSESSION OR USE OF DYNAMITE OR OTHER DANGEROUS EXPLOSIVES.

5. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR INCITING PERSON OR PERSONS TO COMMIT ANY UNLAWFUL ACTS OF VIOLENCE WILL ALSO BE LEGISLATED ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER.

6. COMMENT: HAVING WATCHED P.M. MANLEY PLACE TOTAL BLAME FOR THE RECENT RIOTING ON THE OPPOSITION, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT LOCALLY THAT IT ALSO IS THE TARGET OF THE NEW "GAG" LEGISLATION. BY HIS "ACTS AND UTTERANCES" THE PM CONTINUES TO TERRIFY A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION, WHO SEE THE NEW LEGISLATION AS AN ACT TO ABOLISH FREEDOM OF SPEECH.  
GERARD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, PENAL REFORM, AMENDMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KINGST00367  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760030-1174  
**From:** KINGSTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760119/aaaaapwj.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 KINGSTON 164  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUN COURT ACT AMENDED: GAG LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, JM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006